IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 1-12 without prejudice to or disclaimer of their subject matter. Please also ADD claims 13-18, as follows.

1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (New) An image reading apparatus comprising:

a scanner unit which optically scans an original;

a drive unit which moves said scanner unit;

a mode setting unit which sets between a normal processing mode and a high-speed processing mode; and

a controller,

wherein when an operation of reading an image of the original has been completed,

in said normal processing mode, said controller controls said drive unit to move said scanner unit to a home position, and thereafter sets an energized electric power of said drive unit at a minimum electric power, and keeps an energized state of said drive unit for a predetermined period of time, wherein when said controller is instructed to start a reading of an image of a succeeding original within the predetermined period of time, said controller performs a shading compensation for compensating an output of said scanner unit, and thereafter performs an operation of reading the image of the succeeding original, and

in said high-speed processing mode, said controller sets the energized electric power of said drive unit at the minimum electric power without moving said scanner unit to the home position, and keeps the energized state of said drive unit for the predetermined period of time, wherein when said controller is instructed to start the reading of the image of the succeeding original within the predetermined period of time, said controller performs the operation of reading the image of the succeeding original without performing the shading compensation.

14. (New) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein when the predetermined period of time has elapsed,

in said normal processing mode, said controller turns off an electric current to said drive unit, and

in said high-speed processing mode, said controller controls said drive unit to move said scanner unit to the home position, and thereafter turns off the electric current to said drive unit.

15. (New) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein when said controller is instructed to start a reading of an image of the original after an electric power is applied to said image reading apparatus, said controller controls said drive unit to move said scanner unit to perform a home position search to initialize a position of said scanner unit for position setting, and thereafter performs an operation of reading the image of the original.

16. (New) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 13, further comprising a time setting unit which sets the predetermined period of time.

17. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image reading apparatus as recited in Claim 13; and

an image forming unit which records image information read by said image reading apparatus on a sheet.

18. (New) A method of reading an image by using an image reading apparatus including a scanner unit which optically scans an original, a drive unit which moves said scanner unit, and a mode setting unit which sets between a normal processing mode and a high-speed processing mode, said method comprising:

when an operation of reading an image of the original has been completed in said normal processing mode, controlling said drive unit to move said scanner unit to a home position, and thereafter setting an energized electric power of said drive unit at a minimum electric power, and keeping an energized state of said drive unit for a predetermined period of time, wherein when instructed to start a reading of an image of a succeeding original within the predetermined period of time, performing a shading compensation for compensating an output of said scanner unit, and thereafter performing an operation of reading the image of the succeeding original, and

when the operation of reading the image of the original has been completed in said high-speed processing mode, setting the energized electric power of said drive unit at the

minimum electric power without moving said scanner unit to the home position, and keeping the energized state of said drive unit for the predetermined period of time, wherein when instructed to start the reading of the image of the succeeding original within the predetermined period of time, performing the operation of reading the image of the succeeding original without performing the shading compensation.